

3 October 2012

Connecting Sydney's International Gateways

Improved bus and rail services and investment in key road pinchpoints are recommended as the immediate priorities to manage rapid travel growth around Port Botany and Sydney Airport in the State Infrastructure Strategy released today.

The Strategy identifies Sydney's International Gateways – Port Botany and Sydney Airport – as two of the most critical pieces of infrastructure in NSW. It recommends investing in landside infrastructure to support growth in freight movements and air travel as essential to the success of the State.

A package of short-term measures is recommended to improve travel around Port Botany and Sydney Airport:

- Reducing the \$12 Airport Stations Usage Fee to encourage more people to travel by rail to Sydney Airport
- Putting on new bus services to the airport from across Sydney
- Investing \$300 million in four key road pinchpoints around the port and airport, including converting Bourke Rd and O'Riordan St to a one-way system.

Infrastructure NSW Chief Executive Paul Broad said these investments were essential to NSW's economic future:

"NSW is located a long way from international markets. The State needs reliable air and freight travel to compete successfully with its domestic and international competitors," Mr Broad said.

"Demand for freight and air travel is growing much faster than the economy as a whole, leaving the roads around our port and airport choked. We need to act now because in 10 years there will be twice as many containers moving through Port Botany.

"These short-term improvements could be put in place in the next three to five years, keeping the heavily congested precinct around the port and airport moving while major upgrades – such as duplicating the M5 East – are under construction."

Mr Broad said that the strategy also supported moves by the State and Commonwealth governments to get more port freight to move by rail in NSW:

"Major investment in NSW's intermodal capacity may help make rail more viable for some freight users who currently use roads," Mr Broad said.

The Strategy is Infrastructure NSW's independent advice to the NSW Government on the priority investments and reforms required to drive productivity and economic growth. For further information, the Strategy can be found on www.insw.com

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